



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** August 16, 2011

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

**SUBJECT:** Purchase Order For Primary Coagulant Chemicals For The William B. Cater Water Treatment Plant

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council find it in the City's best interest to waive the formal bidding process as authorized by Municipal Code 4.52.070(k), and authorize the City General Services Manager to issue a Blanket Purchase Order to Summit Research Labs as the sole source and most favorable source for providing the City with Sumaclear 830B and Sumaclear 1000 coagulant chemicals in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for Fiscal Year 2012, with the option for the City General Services Manager to renew the purchase order for an additional four years, subject to the availability of appropriated funds for this purpose in the adopted budget for each subsequent fiscal year.

### DISCUSSION:

William B. Cater Water Treatment Plant (Cater) provides regional water treatment to the communities of Santa Barbara, Summerland, Montecito, and Carpinteria. A major part of the water treatment process involves removal of suspended particles from the untreated water. These particles can provide places for bacteria to hide and avoid disinfection. The addition of a coagulant chemical makes the suspended particles adhere to each other. As the particles become larger and heavier, they settle to the bottom of the sedimentation basin, where they are removed, dried and disposed.

Each manufacturer of water treatment coagulant chemicals uses its own proprietary blend of chemicals. Cater staff has tested coagulants from many different manufacturers throughout the years, and has been purchasing Sumaclear 830B through an annual blanket purchase order since 2007. Shortly after the Zaca Fire, Sumaclear 1000 was added to target the increased total organic carbon (TOC) content in the water. The two chemicals work together to keep the City in compliance with Federal and State drinking water regulations. It has proven to be the most efficient and cost effective treatment scheme for use with the City's particular untreated water quality.

Cater staff has an ongoing process to aggressively test newly developed coagulant blends in an effort to improve the treatment process and provide competition for competitive bid pricing. This process is extremely important in meeting strict water quality regulations set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California Department of Health Services. In the spring of this year, three vendors were invited to submit alternative coagulant chemicals for testing. Water Quality Treatment Solutions was a third-party firm that evaluated the performance versus price of each coagulant chemical. Their analysis showed that coagulants from Summit Research Labs were the most cost effective.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Coagulant chemical costs are estimated to be \$500,000 for Fiscal Year 2012. There are sufficient funds in the Water Fund to cover these costs.

**PREPARED BY:** Catherine Taylor, P.E., Water System Manager/mh

**SUBMITTED BY:** Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office